

The Baptist Record

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Christian witnesses step onto info superhighway

By Ken Walker

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP) — Jesus told those who believe in him to go and make disciples of all nations — including a new world popularly known as Cyberspace. But Christians who use their computers to witness via high-tech bulletin boards warn this mission frontier can be emotionally bruising.

"Christians are getting more attuned to computers, but I'm afraid Cyberspace has been the province of the irreligious and the irreverent for so long they have the upper hand," said Steve Brown, a member of Highland Church in Louisville, Ky.

"Unless you're persistent and are prepared to confront deep issues of the faith, it can be a scary world."

"I have yet to see anyone come to the Lord," added Norm Miller at Southeastern

Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C. The editor of Southeastern's alumni magazine began sending gospel messages last summer over America Online (AOL), but hasn't been as active lately.

"Actually, it can get pretty discouraging," said Miller, a member of West Oxford Church, Oxford, N.C. "Those who want to do this better be prepared for the worst. If you hang out in the lobbies (on-line discussion groups), the discussions drop to the gutter level or worse. It's made me aware of how sick our society is."

Computer bulletin boards are a radically different world, agreed Jim Gallagher of Lewisville, Texas. Saved in the 1960s during the Jesus movement, he has 25 years of ministry experience as a youth pastor, Chris-

tian school principal, and officer of a Bible software company.

"I led a lot of people to the Lord on the streets 20 years ago," said Gallagher, a telecommunications columnist for **Christian Computing Magazine**. "But in the modem world it doesn't work that way. Modem users are 'lurkers.' They wait to see what's there and they don't jump in if you try to witness."

"Mass witnessing never works. The only way is one-on-one.... You need to get voice or direct contact."

While on-line services like Prodigy, CompuServe, AOL, and the giant Internet generate most of the publicity, witnessing doesn't require monthly fees. Brown began six years ago after trying out his modem by dialing up the Louisville Free Public Library's bulletin board. He now calls three area systems regularly and has a password on a dozen, all free of charge.

"Eventually, no matter what the subject, it would come around to a religious, or anti-religious, statement," said Brown. "I would say, 'Have you considered that another viewpoint is true?' They would ask

'Who are you to say that?' and I said, 'I'm a graduate of Southern Seminary and an ordained Baptist minister.' Once I advertised that, I got all kinds of questions."

However, it may be best not to start out talking about religion. For example, Brown often gets involved in discussions on law, politics, and the Constitution. Starting slowly with any topic and building on that will often open doors, he said.

Electronic witnessing also requires perseverance, according to the former pastor. Brown invited one correspondent who had suffered a miscarriage to services; the woman also attended a church picnic and a seminar. But just when she appeared ready to make a decision, she dropped out of sight and off the bulletin board.

Despite his frustration, Miller has had some triumphs, too. Last Christmas, he decided to save a list of names from a discussion group's "lobby." Then he composed a short message talking about the real meaning of Christmas and mass mailed it to that list.

Although some people replied with rude put-downs, there were many non-Christians who expressed interest in what he said. About half those who responded to the mailing were fellow believers who encouraged him to keep spreading the gospel. "This has served to challenge me to witness more and to recognize the needs of the lost," Miller said.

"On-line minister" works from his home

By Mathew R. Horn

SHOREWOOD, Ill. (BP) — Since the beginning of the technological breakthrough known as the computer, people have been discovering ways to communicate with each other. This is how we have come to the point where there are services such as CompuServe, America Online, and others. As a computer user, I would like to point out there is a great ministry opportunity waiting for someone to get in on.

Since I am a member of America Online (AOL), I get the chance to talk to people and spread the gospel in such a way that it has a greater impact on people and their lives. It has been said that if you can bring the gospel into a person's house, then they may be more willing to listen. This is the best way to do it.

Just the other night, I popped into the area called Atheists Online and proceeded to answer questions which they had about the gospel and about the Bible in general. While people may huff and puff about not wanting to listen to someone talk to them about the Bible or about God in general, I have discovered that these people are more interested than what they appear to be. When someone takes the time to "sit down with them" and handle a barrage of questions, and be able to answer them, they are more impressed than turned away. This is a great ministry opportunity. Those who are willing to take the time and confront people in this manner will make great strides for the gospel.

What is true CyberMinistry? It is using the computer to tell those who are unbelievers about the gospel, about Christ, and about God in general. It is answering the questions of those who wish to know more but are afraid to go to their local clergy. This can literally be taking the gospel to the world, and you don't have to leave your home to do it. Think about it.

Horn is a member of Westview Church, Shorewood, Ill.

Computerized gospel presentation available

ATLANTA (BP) — Looking for a way to witness to high-tech friends? Try giving them the Eternal Life tract on disk.

The contents of the witnessing booklet are available in the Home Mission Board library of SBCNet, the Southern Baptist on-line computer system. The file name is "Eternal Life Booklet for Windows."

Computer users must have Windows 3.1 or higher and at least a 386 processor to download the program, said Bill Gordon, HMB associate director of interfaith witness.

The printed version, available in 16 languages, is sold for 10 cents each. Copies can be ordered from HMB customer services toll-free at (800) 634-2462.

One AOL user goes by "Radical for JC," Miller said, and he's been thinking of using a new name like "King's Kid." Originally he wanted to be known as "Grapho," Greek for "I write." Since that was taken, he added a "w" to the spelling to qualify for using it over AOL.

"When people ask what Grapho means, I tell them I love to read and write, and read the Bible," he said. "I'm always looking for an angle."

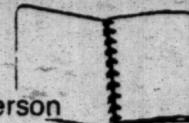
If you find yourself getting provoked by nasty messages, cool down before you reply.

Walker is a free-lance writer based in Louisville, Ky.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Thursday, March 9, 1995

Guy Henderson



The gambling thirst

Gambling is akin to offering salt-water to a thirsty man. America appears obsessed with the lotteries, the spinning wheel, or the dealing of the cards.

Many lawmakers, businessmen, and the general citizenry seem to be entranced by the tax-induced income.

The state of Mississippi received \$128,769,795 in the 12 months ending with June 1994. Visions of tax cuts, new highways, better schools, increased salaries for teachers and state workers, and a thriving economy filtered through the minds of our people.

Lotteries now exist in 33 states and more are considering it. The 1995 lottery revenues are expected to top \$30 billion in the USA. People are clamoring for a piece of the action.

Can there ever be a winner in gambling without a host of losers? We've seen the smiling face of the winners; dare we take a look at the losers?

Addiction is a strong attach-

ment. It latches on to greed and the victim is in for a rough time. Local and state governments can be just as addicted as the slot machine aficionados.

There are 10 million people and 40 or 50 states considered to be gambling addicts.

The pastor of Willow Creek Community Church near Chicago, Bill Hybel, surveyed his congregation and discovered that 20% of the respondents had participated in some form of gambling in the past six months.

Hybel then said, "At the root of wanting a windfall in the first place, is a deep, gnawing dissatisfaction with your current level of provision that God has made for your life. Maybe underneath it all is a monster that lurks in the shadows of almost every person's heart, the monster called 'more.' (Christianity Today, Nov. 25, 1991).

The state that legalizes gambling does its people no favor. These ill-gotten gains are quickly lost to treating the consequences

of the very activity sponsored by the state.

If governments have to resort to gambling to provide essential services for the people, then you have governments preying on the weaknesses of the very people they ought to protect.

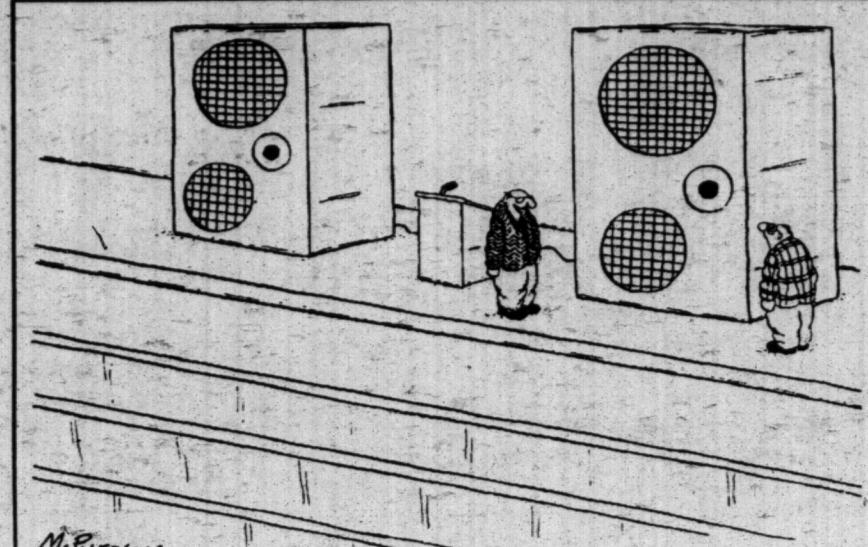
Gambling is just an open scam perpetuated by weak and ineffective government.

Recently, in addressing this subject, a *Kansas City Star* editorial asked, "Is Missouri so cheap that it must rely on the misery of gamblers to finance its schools?"

The sin of covetousness is never far away. An Arab proverb maintains that, "Covetousness has for its mother, unlawful desire; for its daughter, injustice; and for its friends, violence."

Even now Mississippians are asking, "How did we go from being the buckle of the Bible belt to the state ranked second in gambling facilities?"

Can we demand an answer from our lawmakers?



From *McPherson Goes to Church* by John McPherson (Zondervan 1994)



THE FRAGMENTS

Verbal pollution

It is said that profanity is the product of a demented mind trying to express itself. This verbal pollution is found everywhere and is regular fare on television.

John E. Roberts of the South Carolina *Baptist Courier* calls it the "poverty of profanity," declaring the average person has 40,000 words in his vocabulary. Of these 40,000 word, less than 100 would

be classified as profane.

Why overwork the 100 words and neglect the 39,900? Making your mouth a verbal garbage can is seldom pleasing to man and dishonors the Creator.

"And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him." (Col. 3:17).

—GH

Southern Baptists moving toward new inclusiveness

By Sid Smith

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (BP) — It is a new day for the Southern Baptist Convention.

The last quarter century has brought revolutionary changes to the nation's largest non-Catholic denomination. Southern Baptists have grown to become the most racially, ethnically inclusive denomination in America, according to denominational demographers.

Unlike days past when monoracialism tended to characterize the agenda of Southern Baptists, a new day of progress has dawned in the SBC.

This new day is characterized by rays of hope that equality will be realized in the denomination. These rays of hope are witnessed in a number of significant changes.

During the past 25 years, more than 1,600 Southern Baptist churches have been born in the African-American community.

This nation-wide proliferation of predominately African-American churches in the SBC is one of the great unextolled movements in contemporary church history.

Twenty-five years of progress

has brought inclusion of African Americans in leadership circles in significant areas of convention life.

Respected, involved blacks have earned selection to leadership positions in the SBC in such areas as serving on national boards of SBC agencies, on the Executive Committee, and as second-vice president of the SBC.

In fact, Southern Baptists employ more full-time black professionals in denominational service than any other denomination.

Many states have been very receptive to African-American leadership in top-elected positions.

At least 10 blacks have been elected president of their state conventions. One state convention has elected a non-Anglo to serve as executive director.

Most states now have — or are in the process of developing — black-designed strategic programs of inclusiveness focusing on the needs of churches responding to the challenge of the African-American community.

Smith is director of the African-American Ministries, Florida Convention.

Guest Opinion...

Is truth irrelevant today?

By Norman Miller

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP) — With an arm around his 11-year-old granddaughter, Chuck Colson sat as Caroline read the caption under a picture of the Bill of Rights in her American history textbook: "The Bill of Rights promised individual freedoms to many people, but not to women, blacks, and native Americans."

Colson, founder of Prison Fellowship Ministries and once an aide to former President Richard M. Nixon, related this story Feb. 27 at the Christian Life Commission's annual seminar, "The War of the Worlds," meeting at Southeastern Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., Feb. 27-March 1.

"Why would we publish a textbook that is not only wrong but also misrepresents American history in a negative way?" Colson pointed out.

Continuing with "signs of the times," Colson cited a professor at San Francisco State University who was suspended for teaching that the theory of evolution was flawed.

"He was readmitted to the classroom only after agreeing not to teach that evolution was flawed. Where is academic freedom?" Colson asked.

The Federal Aviation Administration has a 'gender sensitivity'

course" in which women view and then comment on pictures of male sex organs in the presence of male co-workers.

Colson said many U.S. government agencies use this sort of training and asked, "Why do we do this — consciously humiliate people — why?"

Colson said a fourth-grade student was chastised by a principal in a St. Louis public school for praying before eating lunch. "He was threatened with expulsion, and the principal called the boy's parents, telling them, 'Your son can't do this because it violates separation of church and state laws.'"

In a northern Virginia community, you can sing Christmas carols on public property but only if "you do not mention the Lord's name," Colson said. "Frosty the Snowman" is OK, but not 'Silent Night.'

"Why, why do we want to exclude the symbols of our own faith, which belong to the vast majority of Americans?

"America's problems go much deeper than the distribution of condoms to teenagers and the appointment of Henry Foster as surgeon general. These events I have cited are all little skirmishes of a major war being waged not only for the

heart and soul of America, but for Western culture as well."

In the 1960s, Colson said, "We went through a revolution in America, and we cannot understand the role of the church, or the crisis in America, or even our own country unless we understand the kind of revolution that occurred in America three decades ago," when objective truth and any knowledge of it was rejected.

The prevailing views were "there is no truth, and there is no God," Colson said.

"The kids of the '60s believed this; there is nothing more than eat, drink, cheap drugs, and free love — why not?" he said.

The era and philosophy has not left Western culture, said Colson. "The hippies have simply shaved their beards, traded their tie-dyed T-shirts for three-piece business suits, moved to Wall Street, and become Yuppies," he observed.

Colson said "live for yourself" and rampant relativism have become the "dominant ethos in American life."

Against all this stands the Christian world view, he said. "There is truth. It is knowable. God has spoken. We place a higher premium on truth than on tolerance."

Miller is news editor for Southeastern Seminary.

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Nobles moved after release from San Francisco hospital

Former Mississippi College President Lewis Nobles was transferred March 2 from San Francisco to a Missouri facility to undergo tests that will determine whether he can stand trial on charges that he diverted for his personal use portions of \$3 million in missing donations at the Baptist-affiliated school in Clinton.

Nobles, 70, was transported by air ambulance to the U.S. Medical Center for Federal Prisoners in Springfield, Missouri, after being released by doctors at St. Francis Hospital in San Francisco.

He spent 35 days in the hospital after apparently swallowing poison in a hotel room Jan. 26 while being arrested by agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

Nobles underwent two emergency surgeries at St. Francis to repair damage to his stomach and

esophagus, and he suffered a stroke while hospitalized that left him partially paralyzed.

Jackson television station WLBT broadcast videotape footage March 2 that showed Nobles' stretcher being loaded into the air ambulance in San Francisco during a driving rainstorm. He appeared to be awake and alert.

FBI agents tracked Nobles to San Francisco's Grand Hyatt Hotel after he skipped a pretrial hearing Jan. 26 in Jackson, during which he was expected to plead guilty to at least some of the charges under a plea bargain.

U.S. Attorney Brad Pigott of Jackson would not confirm or deny an agreement had been finalized, citing his policy of not commenting on ongoing plea bargain negotiations.

By William H. Perkins Jr.

Nobles faced a Feb. 7 trial date on a 20-count federal indictment that included charges of fraud, money laundering, income tax evasion, and illegal interstate acts of immorality, but U.S. District Judge William Barbour of Jackson ordered a psychiatric evaluation of Nobles after he fled.

A spokesman for the U.S. Marshal Service in San Francisco said Nobles could possibly turn out to

be one of the federal agency's most expensive prisoners.

Jim Sullivan, chief deputy U.S. marshal in San Francisco, told The Clarion-Ledger newspaper in Jackson March 3 that the cost of guarding Nobles around the clock and then transporting him to the Missouri facility cost taxpayers about \$47,000.

The tab for the air ambulance, a specially-equipped Lear jet with a

two-member flight crew, a nurse, and two deputy marshals, was \$15,000, according to Sullivan.

He said he is hopeful Nobles' medical bill from St. Francis, estimated to be more than \$100,000, will be covered by Nobles' private insurance carrier or Medicare.

Sullivan admitted, however, that the Marshal Service will ultimately pay any charges remaining after other avenues are exhausted.

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

The Baptist Record

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Restructure could transfer mission role to states

NASHVILLE (ABP) — Some state Baptist conventions, including Mississippi, could be encouraged to take on complete funding and management of mission work within their borders — a dramatic shift in the way Southern Baptists do home missions.

This is one facet of a major overhaul of Southern Baptist Convention agency assignments proposed by an SBC program and structure study committee, which unveiled its work Feb. 20.

Making the more-established state conventions less entangled with the SBC in home missions work would be a major shift from the current structure.

Currently, the SBC Home Mission Board works jointly with every state or regional Baptist convention to administer mission work in the states.

These relationships are spelled out in carefully negotiated documents called "cooperative agreements" which also stipulate how much funding missionaries and mission projects in each state get from the HMB and how much they get from the state convention.

For example, most home mis-

sions projects in Kentucky are funded 40% by the HMB and 60% by the Kentucky Baptist Convention. In states outside the Deep South, however, that split could be 90% - 10%.

The SBC program and structure study committee has opened a window of opportunity for this practice to change. But the suggestion is not entirely new.

"In 1959, the Southern Baptist Convention adopted a denominational strategy which encouraged the state conventions to assume primary responsibility for developing and funding mission strategies within their state boundaries, thus avoiding duplication and confusion of strategy and resources," the study committee's report says.

"This principle, though never fully implemented, remains valid and should be reflected in the cooperative agreements adopted by the North American Mission Board and the state conventions."

The North American Mission Board is a new domestic-missions agency proposed by the study committee.

It would incorporate elements of the current Home Mission

Board, Radio and Television Commission, and Brotherhood Commission.

The report notes that state conventions with total church membership equal to 10% or more of their state populations "have resources adequate to fund their evangelism and mission staff and programs."

The new North American Mission Board would "encourage these state conventions to fund their internal mission strategies while continuing to support the national and international min-

istries" of the SBC through gifts to the Cooperative Program unified budget.

The committee's goal is for larger state conventions to take responsibility for totally funding their own home missions work without reducing their contributions to the SBC's national and international missions program, committee members said.

However, state conventions will be tempted to tap some of the money currently sent to the Home Mission Board in order to fund their increased responsibilities at home.

That would leave less money for HMB missions in less-established conventions.

State conventions which fall above the 10% threshold suggested by the study committee include Oklahoma, Texas, Missouri, Arkansas, Kentucky, South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Georgia.

Most of these states send more money to out-of-state missions than they receive from the Home Mission Board.

Brotherhood Commission trustees affirm work, organize transition

Southern Baptist Convention," said James D. Williams, Brotherhood Commission president.

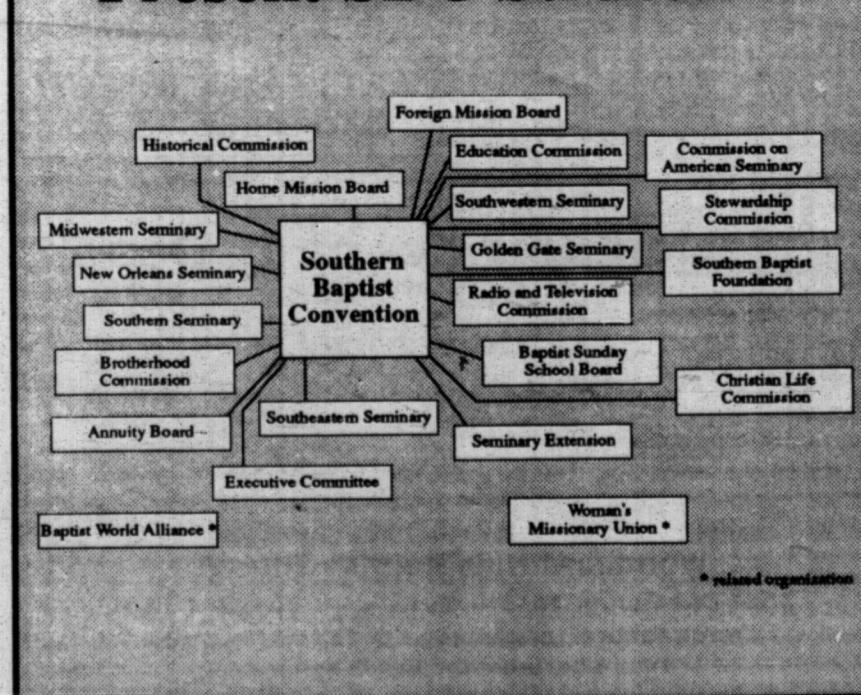
"We are simply taking a proactive step to be prepared to respond to whatever we are called upon to do."

"We want to be ready to lead a transition process with dignity and direction, and move into our

new, expanded role empowered by God's Spirit," Williams said.

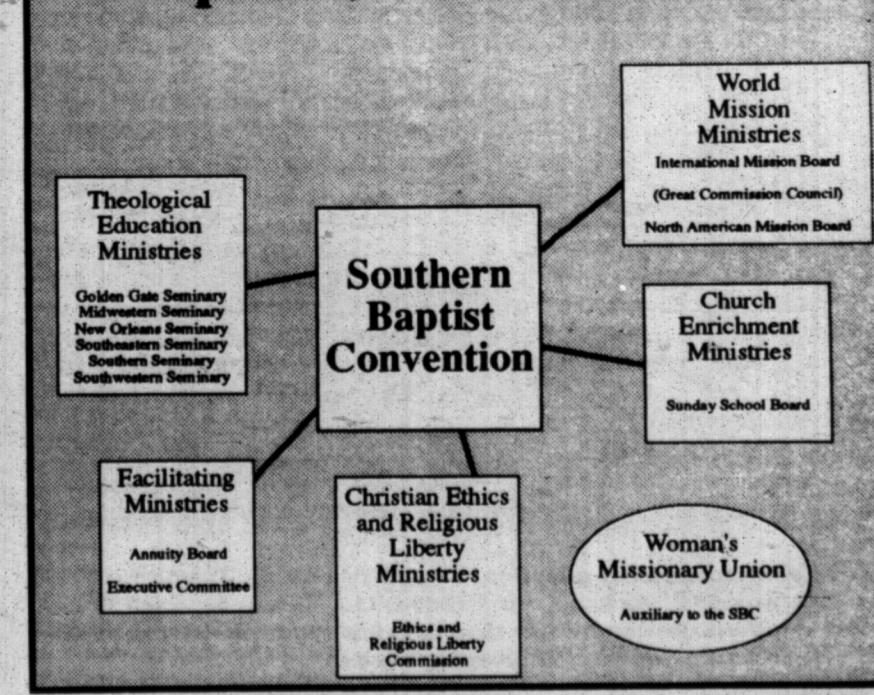
According to trustee chairman Donley Brown, the consensus of the board is to accept the recommendations in the "Covenant for a New Century" proposal and "proceed with an orderly transition, based on the will of the Southern Baptist Convention."

Present SBC Structure



* related organization

Proposed SBC Structure



Billy Graham set to launch ambitious Global Mission

Evangelist Billy Graham, at a press conference in New York City, launched Global Mission on Feb. 7, his most ambitious crusade in more than 50 years of ministry — which has been described as the largest outreach in the history of the Christian church.

Originating from a crusade in Puerto Rico in mid-March, it is estimated that eight million people will attend satellite crusades to be held March 16-18, at 2,200 locations in 175 countries in more than 100 languages. A total of one billion people are expected to participate in video crusades and prime-time broadcasts across the United States on March 19.

"There has never been a time in my life where I have seen people so hungry for answers and anxious to find something that brings peace and satisfaction to their hearts," Graham said, explaining the urgency reflected in the Global Mission theme, "The Time Is Now."

"Our homes are confused, mixed up, and broken," he added. "There are wars going on — or seemingly about to break out — all over the world. This is a very strategic moment to get before people and tell them that God loves them, that God has a plan,

and that God is interested in them. That is what we're planning to do through Global Mission."

Graham said that beginning March 16-18, Global Mission will be broadcast from the San Juan crusade to mission sites around the world — direct by satellite in every time zone, delayed to run at prime evening time. He was told that more countries will be carrying this extraordinary crusade in more languages than the recent Super Bowl from Miami.

The evangelist explained that an intensive training program has been launched to help train workers for the mission. "We have

trained 5,000 Christian workers to help us with this mission," he revealed. "This past year they have gone to their own countries and in turn trained 1.5 million Christians in Christian Life and Witness classes. From these 1.5 million will come the 500,000 who will serve as counselors in March for the satellite and subsequent video crusades.

He concluded, "The technology itself has developed to the point that we are now ready to bring to a world that is filled with despair and frustration, the Gospel message, that transcends boundaries of geography and political ideology."

Physician/pastor underscores relationship with God as medical technology advances

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP) — As medical technology becomes more and more advanced, it is increasingly important to know the God who knows all of human life, from the embryonic to the elderly, a former Ob-Gyn physician told Southeastern Seminary students Feb. 22.

Bill Cutrer, pastor of Wildwood

Church, Mesquite, Texas, who formerly served 15 years on the staff of Baylor Medical Center in Dallas, focused on Psalm 139 during his message at the Wake Forest, N.C., campus.

A recognition "that we are created in the image of God ... distinguishes us from the dogs, the cats, and the flowers which are truly alive, but are not made in the image of God," Cutrer noted.

"The psalmist's phrase, 'skillfully wrought,' is the same descriptor that was used for those who created the tapestries in the tabernacle.

"We are persons intimately and meticulously made, embroidered by God," he said.

"But no less important is the newborn life, or the child," he continued, adding, "God is not surprised that one is born blind, that one is born deaf. He will be glorified by that life, and how we treat that life."

Cutrer recounted a lecture he gave on Psalm 139 before the Christian Medical Society of the Ukraine, a country in which the average woman aborts three to eight babies in a lifetime.

Speaking to more than 1,000 physicians, most of whom had never heard the psalm before Cutrer's address, he said, "The power of Scripture was such that at the end of the lecture, they had decided to vote as an organization that life begins at conception and that abortion is wrong."

Reflecting on his years as a practicing physician, Cutrer stated: "Medicine is a tragic profession; it's fighting battle after battle in a war we know we're going to lose. Yet we can take hope that in the spiritual realm, we can make an eternal difference."

Science, as well as human understanding, reveals life does begin at conception, Cutrer said.

"I can see hearts beating four weeks and two days after conception, and it's awesome. And nobody looks at that screen and says, 'Wow, a glob of tissue with a heartbeat,'" he pointed out.

Algeria crisis spills over

The effects of Muslim fundamentalism in Algeria have been felt in other areas of the Mediterranean and Middle East. Specifically, strife in Algeria finds parallels in Egypt, Iran, Morocco, Tunisia and France. Witness the Christmas eve 1994 hijacking of an Air France flight from Algiers with 227 people aboard.



(BP) GRAPHIC By Marty Croll

tions, then half of our ministry field is gone," Cutrer said.

Sanctity of life begins with one's relationship to God, Cutrer said.

"Be gracious and be kind because there are people that have made that decision to abort a child. If we cannot reach out in love to those that have had abor-

tions, then half of our ministry field is gone," Cutrer said.

Sanctity of life begins with one's relationship to God, Cutrer said.

"Be gracious and be kind because there are people that have made that decision to abort a child. If we cannot reach out in love to those that have had abor-

Meeting mistakenly lists Frank Pollard as speaker

TAMPA, Fla. (BP) — Frank Pollard, pastor of First Church, Jackson, will not be among the speakers at a conference being organized as an alternative to the Pastors' Conference preceding the June 20-22 Southern Baptist Convention in Atlanta.

Don Letzring, pastor of Tampa's Wellswood Church, told Baptist Press Feb. 27 he spoke with Pollard several days after the mid-February announcement of the June 18-19 "Preaching and Worship Conference" at Atlanta's Wieuca Road Church.

Letzring said Pollard recounted leaving a message on Letzring's answering machine that he had realized a conflict in his schedule between the conference and a summer teaching assignment he had accepted at Golden Gate Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif. He said he had missed Pollard's message

and Pollard had called again when he became aware of the publicity.

Pollard, a former president of the seminary, also is the preacher on "The Baptist Hour" radio program of the SBC Radio and Television Commission.

The list of speakers previously announced for the conference otherwise has not changed, Letzring said.

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LifeAnswers

Ron Mumbower, Ed.D.
Minister of Counseling
First Church, Jackson

With all the current talk about fatherlessness, I must say I don't feel slighted by the fact my father left when I was six years old. Are fathers really important?

Fathers fill an important space in this world because they are providers of strength, security, and initiative. Fatherless children tend to wander about, looking for value and importance. The rises in teen pregnancy and gangs can be largely attributed to lack of male leadership in the areas of commitment and loyalty. Fatherless children find assistance from their mothers and from surrogate male leaders such as Sunday School teachers, Royal Ambassador leaders, coaches, Boy Scout leaders, and relatives. These surrogates, although helpful, can never replace "daddy." You are certainly fortunate that you had a mother who made you feel loved. I hope you also learned about your Heavenly Father's love and that it has sustained you. The Lord watches out for the fatherless and the widow, and you are evidence of that fact.

The pressures on my pastor

are enormous, and I think he needs to talk with someone about the stress. How can I help him?

Your pastor is fortunate! He needs your prayers — prayers that specifically ask God to sustain him and give him rest. A common misconception among pastors is that they should have it all together, and therefore should not hurt inside. If you told your pastor he appeared stressed, he would probably deny it, but even ministers can get their priorities out of line and need readjustment. Assuming some of his tedious chores around the church would free up some of his time and energy. Ask him to do something fun with you, and don't talk about business or church matters. If he enjoys golf, basketball, or other sports, enjoy those things with him. If you have access to a house on the water, let him borrow it for a morning or an afternoon. Notice that in all these suggestions you have not mentioned his stress; this allows your pastor to feel that you are truly concerned and want to help him. If all else fails, however, simply ask what you can do to help lower his stress. If he won't let you help, keep looking for ways to help him without his knowledge.

Reflecting on his years as a practicing physician, Cutrer stated: "Medicine is a tragic profession; it's fighting battle after battle in a war we know we're going to lose. Yet we can take hope that in the spiritual realm, we can make an eternal difference."

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Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.

HOUSETOPS

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the housetops. Matthew 10:27 NAS

March 9, 1995

HouseTops is a supplement to the **Baptist Record** and is produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

1995 Mississippi Baptist State



If you would like to attend this festival, contact the Church Music Dept. of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board at 1-800-748-1651 or 968-3800 in Jackson, for registration information.

March 17, 1995

Scott Association Office, Forest
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

March 18, 1995

38th Avenue Baptist Church, Hattiesburg:
9:30 a.m. - Noon

VOLUNTEER & PART-TIME YOUTH MINISTERS CONFERENCE



RICHARD ROSS, Consultant,
Youth Ministry, Baptist Sunday
School Board, Nashville

If you would like to register for
this conference, contact the
Church Association-Pastoral Ministry Dept.
of the Mississippi Baptist
Convention Board at 1-800-748-1651 or
968-3800 in Jackson.

with
Keith Naylor

Choir Festival

March 14, 1995
First Baptist Church
Jackson



Take the
INITIATIVE!
Singles Retreat 2

May 27-29, 1995
Gulfshore Baptist Assembly
Pass Christian, Mississippi

For more information, contact
the Discipleship & Family
Ministry Dept. of the
Mississippi Baptist
Convention Board at
1-800-748-1651 or
968-3800
in Jackson.

July 24-28
Mississippi College, Clinton

A Service of your Cooperative Program
MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION BOARD
"To Bring Mississippi and the World to Jesus"

Contact Wes Pegues of the Mississippi Baptist
Convention Board at 1-800-748-1651 or 968-3800
in Jackson, for more information.

Canoe
Hike
Fish
Witness
Golf
Tennis
Beach
Recreation
Sail
Tour
Worship
Crafts
Drama

Pray this day

March 12-31

Spring Break - a time out of school! Let's pray for all the spiritual and recreational activities for our folks during their break.

that Christian resolves will be strengthened through events and activities planned by churches during spring break	express thanks for the faster-than-expected recovery of the injuries which Keith Stamps received in the robbery attempt - that they will continue to be faster than expected	for new members in our churches and for their training and orientation	for all the revivals going on in our state and our nation	for the Michael Jones family in their moving from being missionaries in the Philippines to being missionaries in France - especially for the children to understand about moving and for new friends and playmates in France; moving date is not yet set, but visas have been granted	for the Dan Panter family living in Germany; for Dan's safety as he travels to countries in the East as an associate area coordinator of our mission work there	for Paula Smith in Uruguay in her summer camp program, which includes youth and children's camps and a women's retreat
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
for MKs who will be finishing high school this year and will head for the States to attend college; parents ask that we pray that the right college will be chosen	for the Mississippi WMU Annual Meeting at Harrisburg Church in Tupelo today and tomorrow	for churches already working very hard for Easter emphases in music, drama and other ways	for our state legislators	for Dr. Bill Causey and the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and its employees	for the leaders of your own church and association	for the spiritual leadership in your own home
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
for your lost neighbor	express thanks for all your blessings	for someone you have a grudge against	for someone who has a grudge against you	for someone who has been a special blessing to you	for someone to whom you should be a special blessing	Prayer Ministry Office P.O. Box 530 Jackson, MS 39205-0530 Phone 968-3800, Ext. 3904 Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-PRAY
26	27	28	29	30	31	

April

is

LIFE COMMITMENT MONTH

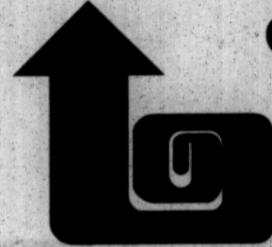
April 16 - Life Commitment Day
or

May be celebrated at choice of local church

What is LIFE COMMITMENT?

- An emphasis on God's call to individual Christians
- A focus on occupation -- answering God's call in vocation
- A time for challenge to and support of persons responding to God's call
- An interpretation of the discipleship and stewardship of life

For further information, contact Matt Buckles, MBCB (800-748-1651) or Donna Gandy, BSSB, Nashville (615-251-3812).



The Growth Spiral...

...a systematic plan of goal setting and evaluating for your church.

Experience Growth Through a Dynamic, Balanced Sunday School Ministry

Pre-Registration Form

Church Name _____

Address _____ Phone _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Person Making Reservations _____

Daytime Phone _____

No. People attending _____

We have attended a State Growth Spiral Conference before yes no

Our church is enrolled in the Growth Spiral yes no

Number of lunches: _____

Number of notebook inserts: _____



Ken Marler

Growth Consultant in the Pastor-Staff Section, General Leadership Department, Bible Teaching-Reaching Division of the Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville.

Conference fee: \$10 (provides lunch and materials)
Make checks payable to: Mississippi Baptist Convention Board
Return to: Sunday School Department, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205

MISSISSIPPI YOUTH LEADERS

Youth Ministry Lab
May 5-7, 1995
Camp Garaywa, Clinton

Renewing the Challenge

For registration information, contact the Sunday School Dept. of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board at 968-3800 in Jackson or 1-800-748-1651.

Conserve the Revival Results!
NEW MEMBER TRAINING WORKSHOPS

Main Street Baptist Church
Hattiesburg
March 21, 1995

Lee Associational Office
March 23, 1995

- * How to begin a new member training program in any size church with few or many new members each year
- * New members include transfer members and new Christians
- * You walk away with a plan
- * For Pastors, Ministers of Education, New Member Training Directors

7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Attention College Students!

Are you interested in a summer job that provides missions opportunities? Then you should consider working as a summer staffer for Central Hills Baptist Retreat or Gulfshore Baptist Assembly. Dan West, manager of Central Hills Retreat

near Kosciusko, and Frank Simmons, manager of Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, Pass Christian, will be holding interviews for persons interested in working at either of these retreats.

Interviews will be held at the following locations:

March 7	Hinds Community College BSU center	10 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
	Copiah-Lincoln Comm. College BSU center	3 p.m.-4:30 p.m.
	Southwest Miss. Comm. College BSU center	5 p.m.-6:30 p.m.
March 8	Jones County Junior College BSU center	11 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
	William Carey College, Lawrence Hall	2:30 p.m.-5 p.m.
	First Church (Hattiesburg), Sharpe activity room	7 p.m.-8:30 p.m.
March 9	University of Southern Mississippi BSU center	10 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

For more information about an interview, contact a local BSU director, Frank Simmons at (601) 452-7261, or Dan West at (601) 289-9730.

HOUSE TOPS



WMU ANNUAL MEETING



March 20-21, 1995
Harrisburg Church, Tupelo



Dellanna O'Brien
Executive Director
WMU SBC



Sandra Nash
President
Mississippi



D.P. Smith
Missionary
Ivory Coast

MONDAY AFTERNOON

12:15 Visit Displays & meet missionaries
1:15 Pre-Session Music
2:00 Speakers:
Stuart Calvert & Ann Hummert
Wilda Fancher
James Young

MONDAY NIGHT

6:15 Pre-Session Music
6:30 Speakers:
Dellanna O'Brien
Mrs. M.C. McDaniel
David Michel
Recognition of Missionary
Parents
Jim McAtee

TUESDAY MORNING

9:15 Pre-Session Music
9:30 Speakers:
Dellanna O'Brien
J.C. Prather
Bill Hardy
D.P. Smith
Alvin & Mary Doyle

One hour overview of WMU changes will be given following the Tuesday session



•EACH SESSION•

Music: D.P. Smith, Dot Pray, and Melissa Alexander

Drama: King's Troop, Blue Mountain BSU Group

•SPECIAL MUSIC•

Monday night: Singing Churchmen Ensemble & Major McDaniel

Tuesday morning: Becky Bennett

Ninth Annual Mississippi Baptists in Broadcasting Workshop

April 21-22, 1995
Calvary Baptist Church,
Jackson

"Helping to Bring Mississippi and the World to Jesus"

Cost for Friday and Saturday is per person which does include all meals and conference materials. For churches bringing four or more persons for Friday and Saturday, cost is \$20 per person. Advanced registration must be made. CANCELLATION POLICY: Full refund prior to April 12, 1995. No refund after that date. Registration deadline is April 12, 1995.

AGENDA

Friday, April 21

6-7 p.m. Browse in vendor display area.
Vendors in video and sound equipment will be on hand.

7-9 p.m. Awards Banquet
Speaker: Deborah Little Key

Awards given in...Division I & Division II

1. Best Program
 - A. Missions/Evangelism
 - B. Church Musical
 - C. Community Service
2. Best Spot
3. Best First Time Entry



Saturday, April 22

8-9 a.m. Continental Breakfast and browse in vendor display area
9 a.m. General Assembly

WORKSHOPS - CHOOSE ONE

9:15-
11:30 a.m. "PRODUCING A WORSHIP SERVICE - BASIC"
"BASIC AUDIO IN THE CHURCH"
"PRODUCING CHURCH PAGEANTS AND SPECIAL EVENTS"
"IDEAS AND SOLUTIONS"
"MEDIA PROMOTION IN YOUR CHURCH & COMMUNITY"
11:30 a.m. LUNCH and browse with vendors again

WORKSHOPS - CHOOSE ONE

1:00-
3:15 p.m. "PRODUCING A WORSHIP SERVICE - ADVANCED"
"BASIC AUDIO IN THE CHURCH HANDS ON"
"MEDIA PROMOTION IN YOUR CHURCH & COMMUNITY"

Ron Harris

Wayne Pierce

Ken Anderson

WORKSHOP LEADERS

Richard Lister

David Edmonds

Chip Turner

Merle Guyton



If you would like more information about the Broadcasting Workshop or would like to register, contact the Department of Broadcast Services of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board at 1-800-748-1651 or 968-3800 in Jackson.

Key Leader Seminar

"How to Discover and Use Your Spiritual Gifts"

April 13, 1995

9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Advanced training opportunities for key church/ associational leaders conducted by the Discipleship & Family Ministry Department

\$10 registration fee

To Pre-Register...

...Fill out the attached registration form and mail to the address given. (The \$10 will cover the cost of the meal and appropriate study course books.) The materials and seminar leaders are provided as a ministry of the Cooperative Program.

...Registration must be received on Friday of the week before the day of the seminar. Persons desiring last-minute registration should call our department to see if space is available.

Mail registration to:

Key Leader Seminar
Mose D. Dangerfield
P. O. Box 530
Jackson, MS 39205

PRE-REGISTRATION

Please register me/us for the seminar. A check for _____ is enclosed.

Name _____
(List additional names on another sheet.)

Address _____

Church Name _____

Association _____

Phone Number _____

A Service of your Cooperative Program
MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION BOARD
"Helping to Bring Mississippi and the World to Jesus"

BAPTIST NURSING FELLOWSHIP

March 20, 1995 - BNF Dinner

Place: Harrisburg Baptist Church, Tupelo

Time: Monday 5:00 p.m.

Cost: \$5.00

Highlights: Parents of Mississippi Missionaries

Share Time

Church _____

Association _____

Person sending money for ticket(s) _____

Address _____

Daytime Phone _____

Enclosed is \$ _____ for _____ persons (\$ _____ each)

(Make checks payable to:

Woman's Missionary Union & designate BNF Dinner on check.)

Send registration form to:

Woman's Missionary Union
P.O. Box 530
Jackson, MS 39205

1995 MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST STATE HANDBELL FESTIVALS

APRIL 21-22

ADULT/YOUTH

Mississippi Trademark Center, Jackson

Friday evening adjudication sessions will be from
6:30 - 8:00 and from 8:15 - 9:30.

Please be set up and ready to ring at 8:30 a.m. at the
Trademark Center, east bay.

The following are selections for the mass ringing:

"Rejoice the Lord is King" Genevox 4578-95 arr. Robinson

"The River" Alfred Publishing Co. 8655 arr. Anna Laura Page

"I Want To Be Ready" Agape 1623

"Melody in F" Agape 1186 (3-5 oct); Cynthia Dobrinski

"Jesus Shall Reign" Agape 1708 (2-3 oct); Agape 1709 (4-5 oct) arr. Sherman

"Jubilee for Bells" Agape 1710 (2-3 oct); Agape 1713 (4-5 oct) Barbara Kinyon



Clinician

Cynthia Dobrinski

Handbell and Organ Professor
Southwestern Baptist Theological
Seminary, Fort Worth, Tex.

1995 STATE HANDBELL FESTIVAL REGISTRATION FORM

MISSISSIPPI TRADEMARK CENTER, APRIL 21-22

CHURCH _____

ADDRESS _____

street _____ city _____ zip _____

Phone _____

MINISTER OF MUSIC _____

CHOIR NAME _____

Number in Group _____ Age group: Sr. Adult Adult Youth

Director _____

Number of tables you are bringing: _____ Total feet in length: _____ Number of octaves: _____

Ringing for adjudication: no yes (7-minute maximum)

Check preference: 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. session 8:15 - 9:30 p.m. session either session

SELECTION: _____

Composer: _____ Minutes: _____

SELECTION: _____ Minutes: _____

Composer: _____

This form and fees should reach the Church Music Department, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205 no later than April 13, 1995.

The fee is non-refundable.

Please make checks payable to **Mississippi Baptist Convention Board**.

Please register _____ bell ringers for Miss. Trademark Center Festival

Subtract \$1.00 per person if postmarked by March 17 @ \$3.00 per person = \$ _____

Add \$1.00 per person if postmarked after March 31 - \$ _____ + \$ _____

Total fee included = \$ _____

THE DEADLINE FOR

REGISTRATION IS

APRIL 13, 1995

If you have more than one
choir participating in a festival,
make copies of this form and
send one form for each choir.

AREA SENIOR ADULT RALLIES

FBC, Louisville/Lake Tiak O'Khata
Louisville, Mississippi

April 4, 1995

Calvary Baptist Church/ MSU Cafeteria
Starkville, Mississippi

April 6, 1995

Theme:

"Expanding the Scope of Senior Adult Ministry"

Program Personalities:

LOUISVILLE Henry Hight, Garland McKee, Paul Weddle, Levon Moore, Pauline Moore, Bobby Waggoner, Tony Higginbotham, Senior Adult Choir, FBC, Louisville

STARKVILLE Henry Hight, Garland McKee, Paul Weddle, Levon Moore, Pauline Moore, Bill Duncan, Jim Keyser, Senior Adult Choir, FBC, Calhoun City

Cost of registration and Tiak O'Khata Buffet
(Louisville) or MSU cafeteria luncheon (Starkville),
\$6.50 per person, including tax and tip

(make all checks to: Dr. W. Levon Moore)

Mail registration cards and checks no later than
March 27, 1995 to:

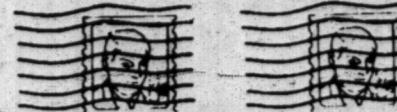
Dr. W. Levon Moore
200 Golf Course Rd.
Kosciusko, MS 39090



Sponsored by the Church Music Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

HOUSE TOPS

Letters to the editor



Preachers faulted

Editor:

In response to the Whence Forgiveness? letter (Feb. 9, 1995, issue of *The Baptist Record*):

I think people need to wake up and blame the preachers for dissatisfaction, for what else can you expect when they don't do anything but go to church three times a week, and you wonder why the church has so many problems. I'm not going to pat them on the back

and say that's all right.

Let's look at what the Bible says in Jeremiah 23:2: "Therefore thus saith the Lord God of Israel against the pastors that feed my people: Ye have scattered my flock, and driven them away, and have not visited them; behold, I will visit upon you the evil of your doings, saith the Lord."

Matthew 25:42-43: "For I was an hungered, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye

clothed me not; sick and in prison, and ye visited me not."

So when dissatisfaction comes, what else can you expect? When people get offended, most of the time there is a good reason behind it. My wife lay flat of her back for five years and these preachers around here have yet to put their foot on my front porch, and it's not only here but happening in lots of other places. So, let's put the blame wherever that is.

Now don't misunderstand me. I know God has a lot of good peo-

ple and preachers out there, and I thank God for them, but what I'm saying is let's know our leader for what sort he is and put the blame where it needs to be.

Yes, I know we as Christians also have a part in witnessing, but the pastor is the front runner.

So, let's keep our minds on

Christ and know who we have for a leader.

Glen Brown
Pheba

Editor's note: There are many good pastors in your area. Call one and invite him to visit you. I believe he will come.

Feb. Cooperative Program receipts show 20% increase over numbers from 1994

vention's Executive Committee.

For February 1995, receipts totaled \$12,437,257, which is 19.30%, or \$2,012,148, over February 1994 of \$10,425,108.

"I am personally very grateful for the continued faithfulness of our Southern Baptist people and for the encouragement they receive from their pastors and state convention leaders," Chapman said.

After five months of the SBC's fiscal year, October through February, the total is \$60,878,340 which is 3.10% (\$1,831,274) over the same period in the previous year, \$59,047,066.

Those encouraging figures, Chapman said, also brought Cooperative Program receipts 7.01% over the year-to-date requirement of the SBC program allocation budget. The monthly budget requirement is \$11,378,310, with the February 1995 total 9.31% above that requirement.

Designated gifts were also up, 4.63% for February: \$36,727,593, compared to a year ago of \$35,103,734. For the year-to-date, designated gifts are 1.03% ahead of that period in the previous year: \$63,866,420 compared to \$63,217,513.

Campsites beckon Baptists to enjoy the great outdoors

Youth groups, senior citizen groups, and others often ask for a list of camp sites in Mississippi.

The Brotherhood Department and Woman's Missionary Union keep a complete list. Here is a partial list.

It does not include Camp Garaywa, Central Hills, or Gulfshore Assembly, which are state Baptist facilities.

Camp Armstrong

Blue Springs 534-5812
Dormitory cabins that sleep 100 people, chapel, kitchen, picnic pavilions, swimming pool, lake for fishing.

Camp Lakeside

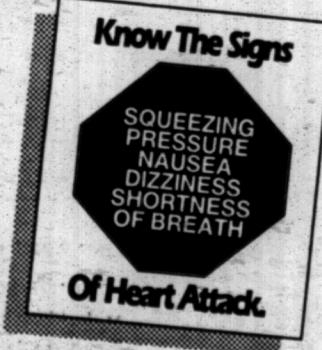
Scobey 647-2834
Rustic cabins to accommodate 70 people, dining hall, lake with canoes, swimming pool, chapel, playground, baseball field, nature trails. In July each year there are three weeks of children's camp.

Rice Acres

Jackson 362-8676
Retreat center. Lodge and kitchen, picnic pavilions with grills, lake for fishing. Tent camping facilities available.

Twin Lakes

Florence 845-6858
Dormitories, lodge, fishing, swimming pool, horseback riding, pavilion with basketball, ropes course.



The Heart Center at Baptist



MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST MEDICAL CENTER

We're healthcaring for the whole family.

HEALTHCARING

FOR THE RECORD

The Heart Center at Baptist

Healthcaring for Heart Patients

The Heart Center at Mississippi Baptist Medical Center (MBMC) is a nationally recognized leader in cardiac care. As the oldest private cardiac program in Mississippi, we have a long history of caring for heart patients.

Education and prevention

1.5 million Americans suffer from heart attacks each year, and nearly one-half of them do not seek prompt medical attention. The Heart Center at Baptist is devoted to changing those numbers for the better.

We seek to prevent heart attacks by educating people about the risk factors associated with them.

Diabetes, high blood pressure, overeating, drug use, lack of exercise and cigarette smoking have all been associated with cardiac disease.

Some of these factors can be controlled by eating a proper diet, getting plenty of exercise and, if necessary, taking medications. When any incidence of a risk factor is decreased, so is the risk of suffering a serious heart attack.

Emergency care

Many heart patients are first exposed to MBMC's Heart Center through the Emergency Room. Our health care professionals couple their expertise with state-of-the-art technology that enables them to provide quality care for heart attack victims.

The Cardiac Emergency Network (CEN), a partnership between Mississippi Baptist Medical Center and 26 community hospitals provides partner hospitals with better access to the technology and treatments available at The Heart Center. Patients are transferred from CEN member hospitals to Baptist by way of our Mobile Cardiac Care Unit (MCCU), a fully equipped coronary care unit with specially trained staff.

Recovery

The Heart Center at Baptist caters to the individual needs of heart patients. Dealing with patients on a one-on-one basis allows our staff of physical therapists, dietitians, nurses and counselors to lessen the fear and anxiety associated with heart attack.

Education, prevention, emergency care and recovery. The Heart Center at Mississippi Baptist Medical Center is healthcaring for the heart. For further information call 948-MBMC (6262) or 1-800-948-MBMC (6262).

Dorror Lake Baptist Assembly

Bellfontaine 258-7545
Dormitory cabins sleep 60 people, couples cabin with ten rooms, kitchen, indoor and outdoor worship area, dining room, recreation room, swimming pool, lake, softball field.

Hurricane Creek Horse Farm

Columbia 587-7114
Trail rides, wagons, arena riding, animal petting area, picnic facilities (For Christian groups only).

Just for the Record

Volunteer construction workers are needed on churches and a church-owned youth camp in Ketchikan, Alaska, June 5-16. Contact Olyn Roberts at (601) 726-9084 or at Route 4, Box 76, Macon, MS 39341. Roberts has led construction teams to Alaska since 1986.

Faith Church, Starkville, will hold its annual Spring Bible Conference on March 19-22. Ron Dunn of Lifestyle Ministries will be guest speaker. Dates and times are Sunday, 10:55 a.m., 5 p.m., and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 12 p.m. and 7 p.m. Lunch will be served Mon.-Wed. at 11:30 a.m. For more information call (601) 323-9333.

The Luther Turner Memorial Service will be held at Calvary Church, New Augusta, on March 12. Sunday School will start at 9:45 a.m. Singing will follow, with services at 11:45 a.m. Dinner on the grounds will be served at 12:30 p.m. with singing until 4 p.m. For more information or singing groups interested in participating call (601) 784-3764. Clay Allen Ingram is pastor.

The Mississippi College Division of Continuing Education is accepting applications for ACT Assessment review sessions which will be held in March and April. Each class session costs \$15 and is independent of the other sessions,

so a student may attend only those sessions pertinent to his needs. To pre-register or for more information, call (601) 925-3264.

Mississippi's top scholastic talent from public and private high schools is competing in Academic Competition, a quiz program hosted and sponsored by Mississippi College. The program pits high school teams against one another over a 15-week period. The winner will advance to the national competition at Rice University in Houston, Texas. "We feel fortunate in being able to sponsor and host this program," said Rory Lee, vice-president for Institutional Advancement at Mississippi College. Students competing are offered an academic scholarship to Mississippi College. The amount of the scholarship increases with the number of games won by the student's team. Serving as moderator for the show this year will be Kimberley Salter, a Mississippi College alumnus. Dean Parks, professor of chemistry, will be the judge. High schools participating include Ackerman, Brandon, Byram Attendance Center, Carthage, Central Hinds Academy, Clinton, Florence, Forest, Forest Hill, Greenwood, Hillcrest Christian, Jackson Academy, Jackson Prep, Kirk Academy, Lamar, Lawrence County, Madison Central, Madison-Ridgeland Academy, McLauren Attendance Center,

Meridian, Murrah, Northwest Rankin Attendance Center, Pearl, Pelahatchie Attendance Center, Pisgah, Provine, Richland Attendance Center, St. Joseph, Vicksburg, Weir Attendance Center, Wesson, Wingfield, Winona, and Yazoo City.

Twila Paris will be in concert with Phil Keaggy and special guest Chris Eaton at Colonial Heights Church, Jackson, on March 16 at 7:30 p.m. For ticket information call (601) 857-2765.

The Sky Family from the Ozark Mountains will be in concert at Robinhood Church, Brandon, on March 12 at 7 p.m. Don Neren is pastor and Barry Lyall is minister of music. For more information call (601) 825-0975 or (601) 825-2067.

Bel Aire Church, Gulfport, will celebrate its 30th anniversary on June 11. Former pastors and staff members are requested to notify the church if they will be able to attend: 15080 Dedeaux Road, Gulfport, MS 39503 or phone (601) 832-1966.

A Weigh Down workshop will be held at First Church, Brooklyn, beginning March 20. Classes run 7-8:30 p.m. each Monday for 12 weeks. For cost and more information call Kathryn Essary at (601) 583-9411.

Revival Dates

Concord, Pelahatchie: March 10-12; Fri. and Sat., 7 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m., 1 p.m., and dinner at noon; Malcolm Pinion, Florence, evangelist; John Alumbaugh, Forest, music; LaVerne Summerlin, pastor.

Centreville, Centreville: March 12-15; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Greg Potts, Vancleave, evangelist; Phillip Willis, Baton Rouge, La., music; W.H. (Bill) Broadwater, pastor.

Glendale, Greenville: March 12-15; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; 7 p.m. nightly; James Travis, Blue Mountain College, evangelist; Keith Dendy, pastor.

Pleasant Ridge, Sturgis: March 12-15; Sunday, 11 a.m. and

6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Randall Creel, Lake, evangelist; Donna Gazaway, Pleasant Ridge, music; Larry Haggard, pastor.

Clear Creek, Shubuta: March 15-17; Wed.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Julian West, Iuka, evangelist; Darrell and Judy Walker, music; David E. Jones, pastor.

First, Calhoun City: March 19-22; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7-7:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.; James Richardson, Madison, evangelist; Ray Burke, Amory, music; Anthony Kay, pastor.

Hope, Philadelphia: March 23-26; speakers and times are Ervin Mooney, Thurs.; Dudley Winstead, Fri.; James Griffith, Sat.; Leo Barker, Sunday, 11 a.m.; and

Wayne Griffith, Sunday, 6 p.m.; services Thurs.-Sat., 7 p.m.; William Crenshaw, Philadelphia, music; Jimmy Young, pastor.

Victory, Bassfield: March 26-29; lunch following Sunday morning worship services and 7 p.m. nightly; Randy Gardner, Old Hebron, evangelist; Bo Bangley, singing; Charles Broome, pastor.

Beacon, Hattiesburg: March 26-29; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Kevin Jones, Benton, evangelist; Keith Manuel, pastor.

L.L. BAPTISTRIES
RENOVATION
PEWS
1-800-537-4723
WACO, TEXAS

Associate program students available

Three students in the associate degree program of New Orleans Seminary are available to serve churches on a part-time basis as ministers of education, according to Louis Smith, director of the church/minister relations department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

Two of the students are located in Jackson, Smith said, while the third is located in the south central part of the state. All three will graduate in May of this year and others are scheduled to complete their training in the future in areas that include preschool and children's work, he added.

Resume' information can be obtained by writing to Smith at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. For information on the associate degree program, contact Chester Vaughn at (601) 956-6285.

Staff Changes

Neel Grantham has been called as pastor of Pineview Church, Clinton. A native of Jackson, he is a graduate of William Carey College and New Orleans Seminary. He has served as associate pastor and minister to youth at Pineview for the past seven years.

Water Oak Church, Wayne Association, has called Bruce Allen Walley as pastor. His ordination service was held March 5.

First Church, Long Beach, has called Richard Strebeck as minister of youth. He previously served Millbrook Church, Coosada, Ala.

Northward Church, Gulf Coast Association, has called Rodney Smith as pastor.

Highland Church, Crystal Springs, has called Bill T. Hudson

as pastor effective March 1. A native of Jackson, he received his education at New Orleans Seminary and Covington Theological Seminary. His previous place of service was Gooden Lake Church, Belzoni.

Mike Davis has been called to First Church of Dawes, Ala., as minister of education and senior adults. He previously served the church as minister of music and senior adults. Davis is a graduate of William Carey College, attended New Orleans Seminary, and is a graduate of Memphis Theological Seminary, Memphis. Mississippi churches he served were in Magee, Fulton, Hattiesburg, and Charleston.

Thorn Lear was called by Crosby Church, Mississippi Association, as pastor. He is a student at New Orleans Seminary.

Lottie Moon Gifts

Pace Church, Cleveland, with a resident membership of 21 and a goal of \$2,000, gave \$3,530. Jimmy Breland is pastor.

Deer Creek Church, Rolling Fork, exceeded its goal of \$850 and gave \$1,740.77. Michael King is pastor.

Lucien Church, Lucien, set a goal of \$1,250 and received \$3,125. Rusty Bowlin is interim pastor. Ted Bowlin of Monticello was former pastor.

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Uniform

Faith in difficult times



By Greg Potts
1 Corinthians 4

It's Sunday morning. The pastor is going over his message for the final time. The phone rings. He answers it... somewhat hesitantly. The voice on the other end is a dear woman in the church who is one of the children's Sunday School teachers.

She explains to the pastor that unexpected guests dropped in to visit her family and that she will not be there to teach her class today. Would the pastor enlist a replacement for her? Sure, he will. After all, isn't that what he is paid for?

The pastor hangs up the phone and feels a heavy dose of frustration settling in. He muses, "As if I didn't have anything else to think about... why can't our teachers be faithful?" This is a problem that ministers confront constantly.

It is called faithfulness. Paul talked about it in this text. In the preceding chapter, Paul had talked about Christian workers (3:21-23). As he begins the fourth chapter, he continues with that discussion.

The responsibility of the steward (vv. 1-2). Paul refers to himself and his colleagues as "servants of Christ, and stewards." Paul states that a steward is required to be found trustworthy. The word steward originally referred to "the manager of a household or an estate." In time, it was used to refer to preachers of the gospel. That is the sense in which Paul uses it here.

Paul says that one of the responsibilities of a steward is to be found trustworthy. Jesus told several parables that illustrated the many facets of being a good steward. Two of those are the parable of the talents (Matt. 25:14-30) and the parable of the sheep and the goats (Matt. 25:31-46). In each, Jesus commands us to be faithful stewards of what he has given us.

Have you been faithful as a steward? Have you managed well what God has given you? Every Christian is responsible for being a faithful steward.

The humility of a steward (vv. 6-10). In verse six, Paul says, "Now these things, brethren, I have figuratively applied to myself and Apollos." What did Paul mean by the statement "I have figuratively applied"? In this verse, it is a rhetorical figure for a veiled allusion to Paul and Apollos (Word Pictures in the New Testament, Robertson, Vol. 4, p. 104).

In other words, Paul is using himself and Apollos as examples to describe the responsibilities and the humility which a steward should possess. The reason Paul did this was that spiritual arrogance had become a problem in Corinth. Some in the church felt they were spiritually superior to others because they possessed certain spiritual gifts that others did not have. This caused them to think more highly of themselves than they should.

Paul reminds the "spiritually elite" that arrogance is not a sign of spiritual maturity. Paul reminds them that he and the other apostles had suffered much for Christ's sake. In so doing, they were weak and without honor while the Corinthians were strong and distinguished (v. 10). Yet, in their suffering, the apostles had been lifted up. Humility is a mark of maturity.

The reliability of a steward (vv 14-17). Paul reminds the Corinthians that if they have a spiritual father, it is he because he had the privilege of leading them to Christ. Because of this, Paul took the liberty to challenge them to model his life in the Lord (v 17). That is a bold statement. Suppose someone is modeling your Christian life? How are you doing? Would that person receive the proper instruction? A steward must be reliable in presenting a true picture of Christ.

President Harry Truman once made a trip to the old west town of Tombstone, Arizona. Ghosts of the famous and notorious alike crowd the streets of Tombstone, people like Wyatt Earp and Doc Holliday. When Truman returned from Tombstone, though, he didn't talk about the legendary heroes. Instead he recalled the words engraved on the headstone of a simple man buried at Boot Hill. The inscription read: "Here lies Jack Williams. He done all he could."

That is what is expected of a steward — to do all he can. Potts is pastor, First Church, Vancleave.

Bible Book

God's indestructible word



By Sylvia Fleming
Jeremiah 34-36

In the year 604, God commanded Jeremiah to write about his ministry from the beginning to their present. It seems that Jeremiah's prophesying prior to the writing of the scroll had been done orally, but at the time God spoke to Jeremiah about the scroll, God wanted all the words of prophecy gathered together in the form of a book (scroll).

God wanted Jeremiah to write about all he had spoken against, regarding the disobedience of Israel, Judah, and their surrounding nations.

That book was written at a chaotic time in history. There were terrible disturbances between Babylonian and Egyptian forces.

The surrounding countries had to decide if they would follow the pharaohs of Egypt or the kings of Babylon. If they made the wrong choice, their very lives were at stake.

God wanted his people to have an opportunity to choose whether they would repent of their sins or continue in their disobedience. God had Jeremiah to write the book that they might understand their history; then, they would have an opportunity to turn to God from their wicked ways.

God in his sovereignty and his righteous anger would allow the evil forces of Babylon to attack his beloved and chosen people that they might desire to turn and follow God in all his goodness and mercy, rather than Satan in his ways that could never be anything but evil.

Though God in his omniscience knew that they would not be willing to repent, he, however, did not reveal that heart-breaking fact to Jeremiah.

After Jeremiah finished writing the scroll, the king ordered that it be brought to him. As he began to unroll the scroll and read, he became so angry that he slashed it into pieces and threw it on the fire.

People of the king's council advised him not to destroy the scroll, but he continued his destructive actions until the scroll was completely consumed. Then, he sent men to arrest both Jeremiah and his close friend Baruch who acted as Jeremiah's scribe.

Jehoiakim in his destructive attempts to do away with God's Word may have succeeded in destroying a scroll; however, God has never nor will he ever allow anyone to destroy his Word. Anyone who would even attempt to do so can only be said to be a master at futility and self-destruction.

Then, the word of God came to Jeremiah and told him to write a second scroll to replace the first which had been destroyed; however, additional material was to be added.

One of the new inclusions of the second scroll was God's judgment upon Jehoiakim. That judgment stated that King Jehoiakim was not to have any offspring to rule the Hebrew people.

Jehoiachin, the son of Jehoiakim, however, was placed on the throne, but was there for a merely insignificant three months.

One can certainly glean from this judgment that God intends for people to show greater reverence for his words. Though Satan has attempted from the beginning of time to destroy God's Word, it has never been allowed, nor shall it ever be.

The table of stone on which God's Word was written was replaced after it was destroyed; thus, this scroll was replaced with a second one.

God initiates, controls, and inspires the writing of his Word, and he certainly expects his creation to treat the Holy Bible as such. One must remember never to treat his Holy Word carelessly.

Matthew 24:35 says, "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away."

Fleming is an English teacher and member of Harmony Church, Louisville.

Life and Work

The challenge to beware



By Michael Johnson
Mark 12

As we have seen, Jesus was a gifted storyteller. The parables were delivered orally and the people could easily discern the main thrust and primary teaching of the story. We should be careful not to confuse parables with allegories where meanings are sought for each detail of the story. The parable for study today, however, is somewhat of a hybrid as we do see certain allegorical applications.

We can imagine that many of the religious leaders who were critical of Jesus were intently listening as Jesus addressed the crowd. The meaning of this story was all too clear to them!

The absence of God. The description of a vineyard was a common figure of speech which referred to the people of Israel (see Is. 5:1-7; Ps. 80:8-16; Jer. 2:21; Ezek. 19:10-14; and Hos. 10:1). As we see from these Old Testament references, every kind of advantage had been given to make sure that the vineyard would be productive. The owner, whom we understand to be God, then left the vineyard fully trusting the tenants to carry out their duties fulfilling the owner's expectations.

Contempt for God's servants. The tenants who were charged with the vineyard's interests are seen to be the rulers of Israel throughout the history of the nation. Yet it appears that the tenants were from time to time found wanting and the vineyard was consequently neglected. In these cases, the owner would send servants (slaves) who represented the owner's interests to the tenants with appropriate instructions. Far from heeding the owner's message, the tenants would turn on the messengers, abusing and rejecting not only them, but in effect, rejecting the owner.

We understand that these messengers represented Israel's prophets who regularly appeared during Israel's history calling the people to repent and return to following God's will. This the people did not always do.

The coming of God's son. Finally the owner decides to send his own son, reasoning that the tenants would not dare to treat him as they had treated the earlier messengers.

Rejection of God's son. According to tenant law, if the owner dies and no heir remains to claim the land, the tenants themselves might inherit the property. At this point in the parable, when the tenants see the owner's son approaching they assume that the owner is dead and, motivated by greed, they plot to kill the son. Naturally we understand that the owner's son is Jesus Christ. Ironically the very truth of the parable is seen in verse 12 which reveals the hearts of the tenants.

God's retaliation. Regardless of what the tenants may have thought or done, God was still owner of the vineyard. The parable now turns to the future, having dealt with the past (prophets) and present (the coming of Christ). Review Is. 5:5-6 once again and see how God will return and bring judgment upon those who have rejected his son.

This parable is just as relevant to us today as it was to the original hearers. Take a few moments and reflect on how God has blessed your church. Does your church take full advantage of all of those blessings? Could the same thing be said about your life? The parable also teaches us how God has not only equipped us, but has also placed a great amount of trust in our corporate and individual lives. Are we living up to that trust?

One day we will be asked to give an accounting of our stewardship. What might we expect God to say to us at that time?

If we are unhappy with the answers to these questions we need not despair. The parable also teaches us something about the patience of God. We can do something about our attitudes and actions today if we are willing. We can resolve to work harder at being more faithful tenants of that which has been entrusted to us. However, do not be misled. This rich story from Jesus also teaches us something about the justice of God. We can appreciate the patience of God but we should not depend on it.

There will be a day when God will return and demand an accounting. We cannot escape responsibility, and the results of our stewardship will determine whether we will be recipients of God's judgment or blessing.

Johnson is associate professor of Christian education at Mississippi College, Clinton.

capsules

SBC-ATLANTA ON-SITE CHILD CARE FORMS NOW AVAILABLE: ATLANTA (BP) — Registration for on-site child care for preschool children of out-of-town messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention in Atlanta, June 20-22, is now being accepted. A registration form is available by writing to: SBC Preschool Child Care, c/o Briarlake Baptist Church, 3715 LaVista Road, Decatur, GA 30033. Included with the registration form will be sessions available, fees, and a medical form.

EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP SEEKING DIRECTOR: NORTHBOROUGH, Mass. (BP) — The Northeastern Baptist Education Consortium (NeBEC), a Southern Baptist partnership, is accepting recommendations for a new director to promote contextualized theological education from Maine to Maryland. Recommendations for the NeBEC director should be mailed by April 1 to Ken Lyle, NeBEC Chairman, Baptist Convention of New England, 5 Oak Avenue, Northborough, MA 01532.

PASTOR FIRED AFTER CONFRONTING HMB PRESIDENT AT PUBLIC MEETING: THERIOT, La. (ABP) — A Louisiana mission pastor has been fired after publicly confronting Home Mission Board President Larry Lewis over Lewis' endorsement of the controversial "Evangelicals and Catholics Together" document. Jerry Moser, 42, was dismissed as pastor of Bayou DuLarge Baptist Mission Church in Theriot, La., by the missions committee of the sponsoring church, Christ Church of Houma, for "insubordination." The pastor of the sponsoring church said he agreed with some of Moser's criticisms but disagreed with the way he chose to address them. "I also have a problem with Larry Lewis signing this document," said Lynn Fontenot, pastor of Christ Church. But the way Moser confronted Lewis was "demeaning and humiliating," Fontenot said. In a letter addressed to "associated churches," Moser described confronting Lewis at an associational world missions conference held at his church Feb. 10. The missions conference in the heavily Catholic section of Louisiana was scheduled more than a year ago, before Lewis and another Southern Baptist Convention leader, Richard Land of the SBC Christian Life Commission, signed the document last March pledging cooperation between evangelicals and Catholics.

CONVICTED KILLER NOW SAYS ANTI-ABORTION VIOLENCE WRONG: OLUSTEE, Fla. (ABP) — A man convicted of killing an abortion doctor in 1993 says he no longer believes violence is an appropriate tool for people opposed to abortion. "I used to believe it was justifiable homicide. I don't anymore," Michael Griffin told the *Florida Times-Union*. A jury convicted Griffin of fatally shooting David Gunn outside a Pensacola abortion clinic two years ago. Although he maintains someone else shot Gunn, Griffin is serving a life sentence at Baker Correctional Institution with no chance of release for 25 years. Griffin, 33, remains staunchly opposed to abortion. During the hour-long interview, he referred to abortion practitioners several times as people who kill babies and said God will hold governing authorities accountable for allowing abortions. Although peaceful protest is fine, violence at abortion clinics isn't the answer, he said. (Reprinted by permission from the *Florida Times-Union*.)

AFRICAN-AMERICAN PROF RESIGNS SOUTHERN OVER TENURE, RACE ISSUES: LOUISVILLE, Ky. (ABP) — An African-American professor has resigned from the faculty of Southern Seminary amid charges of broken promises and racism. Timothy Johnson, an associate professor in the seminary's Carver School of Church Social Work, submitted his resignation Jan. 31, effective July 31. Johnson blamed his decision to leave on the seminary administration's failure to recommend him for tenure. Seminary President Al Mohler countered: "Persons who come on contract come on the basis of that contract. Issues of tenure are of a completely different nature. I do not recognize an implicit pledge to presume upon the action of the trustees" to elect Johnson to tenure, he added. "That was not implied by either administration." Roy Honeycutt preceded Mohler as president.

Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx
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NKPEX HD VNKOAL'T KETYMATT?

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This week's clue: A equals E

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: John Four: Twenty-Two.

WMU calls for prayer, study of proposed SBC restructure

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP) — While Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) does not plan to make a formal response to the Program Structure and Study Committee's (PSSC) recommendations for changing the Southern Baptist Convention's structure, WMU officials are encouraging WMU members and others to understand the committee's report.

WMU Executive Director Delanna O'Brien said the reason WMU does not have plans to make an immediate formal response to the PSSC's report is because WMU's executive board is not scheduled to meet again until June 16-17. "However, we do encourage those who have called us, and would encourage all Southern Baptists, to do several things," O'Brien said:

1) "Pray for the leadership of the Holy Spirit in interpreting and understanding the report. We have great confidence that the intelligent, informed members and friends of WMU can be trusted to seek God's leadership and act on it."

2) "Study the report well. I am pleased that it will be well distributed, giving our membership the opportunity to study the proposals."

3) "Read your state paper."

4) "If you have questions, ask the right people. Letters to state papers, to your state's representative(s) on the Executive Committee, to members of PSSC, and to the presidents of the Foreign Mission Board (FMB), Home Mission Board (HMB), and Brotherhood Commission will yield further information."

5) "Go to the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Atlanta and vote your conscience."

O'Brien outlined answers to three questions she and other WMU staff members have been asked repeatedly since the unveiling of the PSSC's report:

1) To whom do the Lottie Moon Christmas and Annie Armstrong Easter offerings belong? Can they be given away?

"Legal counsel to the Executive Committee has said, from the standpoint of the recipients, the FMB and HMB are the beneficiaries of the offerings. It is the clearest example of a charity; every cent has always gone to the mission boards, with none being retained by WMU. Thus, it might be argued that from this standpoint, the mission boards are the owners of the offerings."

"Another argument could be made, however, that historical and emotional ownership belongs to WMU. For many years, these were women's offerings and gifts from men were returned to the donor. With time, WMU leadership deemed it wise to make them church-wide offerings. In addition, the allocation of the offerings was given to the mission board leadership who knew where the most urgent needs existed."

"Did we give the offerings away? Perhaps so, in the interest of wider involvement and increased giving to missions. We have no regret for this. But while WMU has involved the mission boards and Brotherhood in the promotion of the offerings in these later years, we have continued to be the primary agents in the work. Even within the states, untold hours and dollars are willingly spent by state WMU offices in the distribution of materials and promotion of the offerings."

"Both Larry Lewis and Jerry Rankin have affirmed our contributions and requested our ongoing participation in the promotion of the mission offerings."

2) Why has WMU chosen to remain an auxiliary instead of becoming an agency of the SBC?

"The dictionary defines auxiliary as 'offering or providing help.' By being an auxiliary WMU

has been able to be a helper to the Convention and all its causes. WMU has shared in every large undertaking of Southern Baptists without losing the major emphasis on home or foreign missions."

"Another reason for remaining an auxiliary is that the women elect their own leaders. At the state level, WMU members elect a president. The state president then becomes an officer of the national WMU executive board. This means that women know WMU work on every level and they are well able to represent the women in their state. The WMU executive board works with the national WMU staff in developing the plans and materials which are presented to churches."

3) What does it mean for Brotherhood in the new North American Mission Board to be given responsibility for missions education?

"The report does recommend that the 'focus upon the mobilization of volunteers for mission, disaster ministries, and the missions education' be assigned to the current Brotherhood Commission."

"We would not, however, speak to the purpose of the committee who made this designation. Jim Williams, president of the Brotherhood Commission, has stated publicly that he would hope that WMU would continue to be involved as it has been in the past with gender-specific missions education organizations."

"As for WMU, we are moving 'full speed ahead' to the beginning of our organizational changes, which include new organizations and magazines. These changes are scheduled for October 1995."

"WMU has never feared change. We have been involved in massive changes ourselves in recent years. Structures and formats may change, but the need for an organization that will sensitize Christians to the need of the world for Christ and that will provide them with models and opportunities for praying, going, and giving to share the good news will endure. We intend to continue to provide those for Southern Baptists."

Clarke College committee considers parcelling property

The special committee charged with disposing of property that belonged to now-defunct Clarke College in Newton voted March 2 to appoint a subcommittee to study dividing the property for sale as individual parcels.

Tupelo businessman Larry Otis, chairman of the special committee appointed by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) to liquidate the property now owned by Mississippi Baptists, said the subcommittee will be asked to "explore and develop a strategy for selling the property in individual parcels."

Subcommittee members have not yet been named, Otis said.

The committee previously solicited buyers interested in purchasing the property as a whole, and Otis said the committee has not ruled out that possibility.

"We have not dismissed any options. We are keeping all doors open," he stressed.

Plans to sell the property to a private film-making group failed Jan. 3 when Deep South Film Institute, Inc. missed an extended 60-day deadline to purchase the property for \$1 million.

Investors led by Jim Shepherd of Ridgeland planned to convert the former two-year college into a facility to provide "a wholesome atmosphere to teach HDTV (high definition television) technology while filming feature films, programs, and documentaries that promote family values," according to the company's 1993 proposal.

In addition to Otis, Clarke committee members include Levon Moore (vice-chairman), Kosciusko; R.J. Reynolds, Newton; Bobbie Foster, Prentiss; Jerry Kemp, Columbia; Ernest Saddler, Pascagoula; Glenn Shows, Jackson; Lamar McDonald, Meridian; Bill May, Newton; Joe Jack Hurst, Jackson; George Taylor Jr., Forest; and James Richardson, Madison.

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